LABOR FOR PEACE

see page 5

MODERN TIMES

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New Haven

Vol. III No. 5

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Depression in the Building Trades

see page 7

WHAT'S BEHIND THE BUS CRISIS?

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

Action by Connecticut Company bus drivers and area towns has temporarily postponed an even further reduction in our already meager bus service.

The combined effects of a bus driver strike and legal action by the cities of New Haven, Hamden, East Haven, and West Haven - resulting in a court injunction against cuts in bus service - have forced the Connecticut Company to resume weekend and holiday bus schedules.

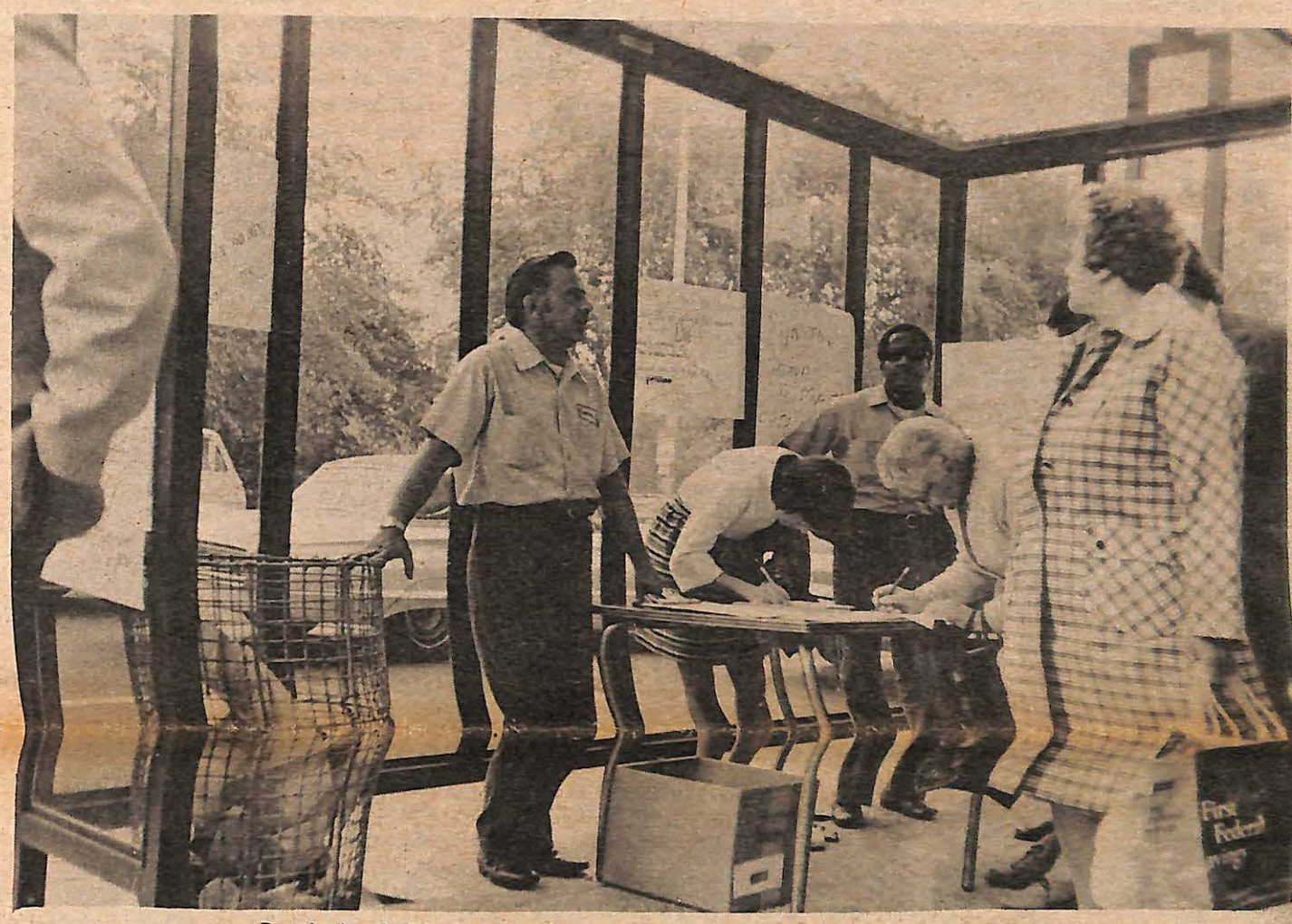
On Tuesday Morning, June 13th, the State Public Utilities Commission (P.U.C.), approved the bus service cutbacks which were proposed by the Connecticut Company. The service cuts would reduce weekend and evening runs by 20, and would result in the layoffs of ten drivers.

These service cuts were to go into effect on Saturday, June 17th, along with a new work schedule.

Drivers React

Several workers, upon hearing of the PUC's approval, called in sick. But they didn't just stay home. They had a meeting, and talked about ways they could get public opposition to these new cuts.

They decided to picket for public attention, and circulate petitions to gain public support. A group of drivers went to visit Mayor Guida and the police and told them of their plan to picket in front of City Hall on Wednesday. The police and the Mayor approved this action, and the workers picketed on Wednesday morning. Later they went down to the corner of Church and Chapel and started collecting the signatures.



People sign Petitions against the cuts in bus service. The Petitions were signed by over 30,000 people. They were sent to Gov. Meskill and used in getting the Court injunction against the cuts. (MT photo by Vittorio Comisso).

The petitions, which were sent to Governor Meskill, demanded that the cutbacks in bus service, layoffs, and price hikes be stopped immediately. By Saturday, they had collected over 30,000 signatures.

Buses Stop Running

On Saturday, June 17th, the buses didn't run. 60 workers reported to work at 5:00 Saturday morning. But there was a conflict. The workers were willing to drive under the old work schedule, but they refused to observe the new one. The conflict arose when Charles W. Abell, the vice president of the company, insisted that if they did not observe the new work schedule, they could not go on their runs. So...they did not go on their runs.

On Saturday, there was a rally on the Green so that drivers and people who depend on the buses could speak publicly of their disapproval of the service cuts. The people who organized the rally and circulated the petitions were working without

See DRIVERS Page 9.

Jobs Open For Spies At Unemployment Office

Gerald Ledbetter doesn't like it. "It's rotten, it's lowdown. We're struggling as it is. If you can pick up a little extra bread on the side, that's O.K. Everybody's out here beating each other. I don't like coming down here all the time. I'd rather work." (M-T photo by Patti Miller).

by Ruth Resnick and Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

In the past few weeks a 'Special Message from the Commissioner' has been given to people who come in to get their checks at the unemployment compensation office at 770 Chapel Street. It reads:

"We have installed a special telephone in the Labor Department for your protection. If you know of anyone who is collecting benefits illegally or fraudulently, please call 1-800-842-3807 from anywhere in the state, toll free, day or night.

Give us the person's name, address, social security number if available, car registration number, where he last worked, or where he is working now, if he is. YOU NEED NOT GIVE YOUR NAME Any information you have is helpful.

We want to protect those who are entitled to the benefits and stop the abuses which will drain your fund."

Modern Times went to 770 Chapel to talk to people who are collecting unemployment, and to find out what they feel about the Commissioner's secret 'spying' system.

See PIGEONS Page 9

John Fasaro said, "If they want to find out, let 'em find out for themselves. It's not right to ask people to snitch on each other." (M-T photo by Patti Miller).

SEE EDITORIAL ON PAGE 6

Political Platitudes Aplenty

A Local View of State Convention

Andrew Esposito
Fair Haven Responsible Democrats

Editor's Note: Senator George McGovern's drive for the nomination for President will get a boost from the Connecticut delegation next month, since at least half the delegates appear to favor him. The following account of the Democratic State Convention, which chose at-large delegates for the National Convention, was written by Andrew Esposito, an alternate to the State Convention and a member of the Fair Haven Responsible Democrats. He stresses that the story is his own personal reflections.

Both the rain, which fell early Friday, and the keynote speech, delivered by Senator Alan Cranston of California, made the early evening dull and depressing. Senator Cranston's speech was flat and unexciting. The speech was standard political fare criticizing the Republican Party's role in the Viet Nam war. I found the speech depressing because with all of the important issues facing the people of this country -- adequate medical care for all regardless of income, equlity of opportunity, quality of education, improvement of working conditions for both blue and while collar workers, pollution, tax reform, and income redistribution -- all we heard were *political platitudes.*

After Senator Cranston's speech the party leaders of the state were introduced. The largest amount of applause was received by Joe Duffey. I can't help wondering where all these people were when their support was needed in the general election against Lowell Weicker. If they had been present Duffey might be in the Senate and the people of Connecticut would have better representation in Washington. The absence of Arther Barbieri, the New Haven town chairman, from the platform raises the question of a split between two powerful party leaders, Barbieri and John Bailey.

The real activity of the convention took place in the halls and rooms of the Hilton Hotel. It was there the party controllers and the McGovern supporters held meetings. Why does wheeling and dealing still go on? Why is it difficult to make the Democratic Party democratic? The political parties must become more democratic, reflecting the desires of all its members not just the powerful few, or they will follow the Federalist Party into oblivion.

In the Terrace Room of the Hilton, the McGovern hospitality suite was packed with people. How many are solid supporters? How many are just party hacks whose reward for being 'good little boys and girls' and voting the way they are told to by their party masters is a pat on the head and a trip to the convention? Most are middle-aged men and women out for a good time and are not interested in the problems of survival facing the urban dwellers.

Slide Show

The most interesting presentation Friday night took place in room 1218. The occupants of that room, the Fair Haven Responsible Democrats, put on a video tape show which showed residents of the Fair Haven area responding to questions about George McGovern. Most residents of this urban neighborhood don't have a clear idea of what McGovern's programs are and how these programs affect them. Thus, a strong educational effort is needed to acquaint them with McGovern. If this effort doesn't take place or if it is not successful the Democrats won't be able to retire the repressive Nixon administration.

On Saturday morning the Convention turned its attention to adopting a platform for the next two years.

A black delegation rose to urge the addition to the platform of the Black Bill of Rights adopted by the Black Congressional Caucus. I felt we should have incorporated it into a Workers' Bill of Rights. For regardless of what ethnic group we are members of, the great majority of us are workers. Whether our earnings are high or low, we are not a part of the 2% of the population which owns 80% of the means of production. This fact unites us with a powerful enough bond to overcome our ethnic diffe-

see DEMS, page 8

Big Cutback in Funds for Legal Aid

by Tom Wies
Legal Aid Lawyer

Editors Note: Governor Meskill is currently trying to cut back funds to Legal Aid. Some say it is because of embarassing court cases filed by Legal Aid against State Agencies. The following story provides background to the controversy. However, Legal Aid lawyers are not allowed to publicly discuss the current developments.

In 1971 the New Haven Legal Aid Assistance Association (LAA) provided free lawyers to more than 11,000 new clients. These were all residents of the New Haven area who could not afford to pay a private attorney.

In representing these clients, LAA lawyers defended hundreds of people against suits brought by finance companies and merchants, defended thousands in criminal cases, delayed or prevented numerous evictions, divorced hundreds of persons whose marriages had failed, saved welfare families millions of dollars. Where necessary, they took their cases to the highest court in the land.

This year, LAA may represent several thousand fewer clients, and next year perhaps fewer still. The reason: money is running out and staff is being let go. This month two lawyers and two secretaries are being laid off, and by September 1, six other lawyers will have resigned. Of the eight lawyers lost, no more than four (and probably only two) will be replaced, and these only by persons on one-year fellowships with no assurance of a longer stay.

Tight Budget

Last year LAA's budget was $904,000, and that figure is being reached by giving raises only at the lower pay levels. No lawyer is getting a raise and nearly half are taking substantial pay cuts. The number of paid law clarks is being reduced and cutbacks are being made in supplies, libraries and the like.

The effects in service are already being felt. Of LAA's six service offices, only two are taking all cases as they come in. Three of the other four are not even able to handle all of the emergency cases. Representation in criminal cases has been shut off everywhere but in the Hill where Model Cities funding is provided.

The major reason for the decrease in service is the reduction in funds from the state. In 1970 the state provided over $231,000; in 1971 less than $140,000; and in 1972 the state has said that it will fund a maximum of $63,000. Some of these losses have been made up by private fund-raising, but it has proved impossible to make up the entire amount.

LAA has consistently been rated by the Office of Economic Opportunity as one of the best legal services programs in the country. Now its effectiveness is being seriously undercut by funding reductions. The future is uncertain. Offices may have to close or consolidate, and staff may gradually be further reduced. LAA itself is trying to find new sources of funding and is examining ways of maintaining its effectiveness despite forced reductions.

Bread & Roses Theme for HSC Graduation

The second unit of High School in the Community (HSC), held its first graduation on Saturday, June 17. The theme of the graduation ceremonies was "Bread and Roses." This theme was taken from a 1912 strike by women textile workers in Lawerence, Mass. According to a poem by James Oppenheimer who was moved by the spirit and solidarity of the women strikers:
Hearts starve as well as bodies,
give us bread, but give us roses.

The "Bread and Roses" address was given by Nancy Klein (right). She claimed that graduates of HSC not only seek good jobs and a good standard of living (bread, but also beauty and love (roses). Neither of these goals have yet been met by American society. Bread and roses were distributed to the graduates as well as diplomas. Graduates Sandy Peterson and Garnett Myers (left) view the proceedings. Other speakers at the ceremonies included HSC students Bonita Yopp, Joseph Wright, and David Frione; Sam Nash from the Superintendent's office; Board of Education members Stephen Pappa and Charles Gill.

(M-T photo by Jack Sal.)

UI Workers Get Wage Increases And Job Security

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

The Federation of Utility Employees affiliated with Utility Workers of America, UWA AFL-CIO, signed a new one year contract on June 20, one day after its ratification by the union membership. The contract duration of only one year represents the unions' uncertainty about current economic conditions.

This is the first one-year contract the UWA has negotiated since 1954 when there were similar economic conditions. According to George Chamberlin, 13 year veteran of the UI company and co-chairman of the negotiating committee, "It was the one thing we insisted on before we even began the sessions."

5 Major Points Won

The negotiating committee, chaired by Mr. William Barker won the following points for the 900 employees in the bargaining unit:

1) A 5½ % wage increase

2) A new long term disability plan which differs from the old coverage after the employee has been out of work six months. **At this point the new plan provides the employee with 50% of his former pay until the age of 65, or until he or she is able to go back to work. Coverage includes off the job injury, an increase in Major Medical coverage from $10,000 to $250,000 per person.**

3) A Blue Cross co-payed perscription drug rider which provides for a maximum of $500.00 per person in the employee's family for perscription drugs from authorized pharmacies.

4) The contract provides for adjustments in leave for funerals, jury duty, and deaths in the family.

Company Must Notify Union

A final major change is in the contract language pertaining to the company's contracting work to outside help "In the past," said Mr. Chamberlin, "the only provision was that the company couldn't use outside labor if it meant bargaining in unit employee lay-offs. Now the company must notify the union when outside labor is being brought in. They must also state the reason, length of time they will be working and the nature of the work. **It's our understanding that this means the company can't go outside for work that can be done by bargaining unit employees, although we'll see how it works out during the next year."**

New P&W Union Signs Contract

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

In its first contract negotiated as bargaining agent for the 2000-plus employees at Pratt and Whitney's North Haven plant, the newly organized Independent Aircraft Machinists won a broad range of improvements. The three-year contract, including an eventual 10% wage increase retroactive to June 1, was overwhelmingly approved in a June 15th election.

The Machinists defeated the United Auto Workers earlier this year in an election to determine the bargaining representative for the employees at the factory. UAW officials, incensed that the rival organization had intervened, termed the novel three-shift balloting procedure that ratified the contract "undemocratic." Martin Greenberg, International Representative of the UAW in North Haven, repeated his belief that an independent union ends up as "company dominated or racket-run." The Independent Machinists have expressed the hope of eventually affiliating with the International Association of Machinists (IAM), even though the International and the UAW have agreed not to raid each others' locals.

Company Generous

Joe DeRoy, president of the Independent Aircraft Machinists, noted that "They (the company) were generous, there's no getting around it." But, he continued, "they felt they had an obligation to the people. The union has set up a good relationship with the company. We went in with open minds willing to bargain, willing to give and take."

"We knew the company was in the driver's seat but we told them from the beginning we weren't willing to give up anything. We knew that this wasn't the time to strike, though," Mr. DeRoy reflected, "You never strike Pratt and Whitney at only one plant."

The North Haven plant is a subsidiary of United Aircraft, Connectivut's largest military-oriented industry.

Real Test to Come

Greenberg, whose UAW had been the bargaining agent for 19 years before the recent switch, warned that the real test of strength would come when the employees attempt to fight grievances pertaining to layoffs and equalization of overtime. Overtime equalization was felt by supporters of the new contract to be one of the biggest improvements.

Environment Going Down Hill

In the Hill neighborhood, things are beginning to look just the way they did three years ago before the Hill Environmental Control (HEC) began its excellent service. Glass is accumulating around park benches, refuse is piling up in empty lots and the curbs look like a chain of garbage dumps. HEC employees stopped working on June 2 as a protest against their new contract merging them with the City Public Works Department. Since that time, negotiations have been going on between the HEC, the Model Cities Agency and the other agencies involved, but no solution has yet been found. (M-T photo by Gene Frankel).

Machinists Sign Contract

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

"It was one of the roughest bargaining sessions we've ever had, and I've been union president for 15 years," Louis Fappiano of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2037 told **Modern Times.** His union accepted a new, 2-year contract at High Standard Manufacturing on June 14, 1972.

The union obtained a 4% wage increase the first year and 4.2% the second year, along with various improvements in job classification, fringe benefits and contract language.

Negotiations were conducted in the shadow of last September's shut-down by the gun-manufacturing company and the lay-off of 275 production workers. There are now 310 workers at the company, all of whom are union members.

Company Together

Fappiano described how the company was much tougher in negotiations this year. "I gave them a 3-page proposal and their guy came back with 52 pages of counter proposals. It took about 7 or 8 sessions just to haggle and try to bring the language back to what it was before."

The job reclassifications amounted to wage increases ranging from 11 to 90 cents per hour for the hundred or so "indirect workers" -- those who work for a straight hourly wage. The other workers are paid on an incentive basis.

Fringe benefits in pensions, insurance, etc., are detailed in an accompanying table.

The union was represented at the bargainaing table by Fappiano, Grand Lodge Representative Warren Hoffman and four other plant workers: Harry Woodward, Andy Logan, Harold Urquart, and John Simpson.

Proud Craftsmanship

The workers are particularly proud of their craftsmanship at High Standard. They turn out some of the best made firearms in the world, including a target pistol used to win a gold medal in the last Olympics. "Every phase of manufacturing guns is entirely different from hardware like brass or aluminum," Fappiano pointed out. "We use heat-tempered steel. And we have a woodworking room that a cabinet maker would love to own. We make a gunstock shine like a piece of furniture."

Labor Notes

OLIN WORKERS OKAY STRIKE

Members of Victory Lodge 609 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), employed at Olin in New Haven and Branford, held a meeting on Sunday, June 25. The union membership voted unanimously to reject the latest contract offer by Olin. In a secret ballot vote union members voted 96% to support its negotiating committee by empowering them to take whatever action they determined advisable. The actual vote was 733 yes to 28 no. Further negotiations were scheduled. The current contract expires at 12 midnight, July 15.

GOVERNMENT BY AND FOR BUSINESS

A survey by the AFL-CIO shows that almost 300 key administration officials in high-paying jobs with important policy-making power have corporate or Republican political backgrounds. Almost 80 percent of these officials have either direct corporate connections or have served as corporation lawyers.

IAM Local 609 News, June

THINGS LOOKING UP?

According to the Connecticut Department of Labor--Employment Security Division -- things are looking up- "Connecticut's economy moved forward in April reflecting improving conditions within the state and throughout the country." What state and what country are they talking about? The unemployment lines are still long, prices are up, companies are moving out of the city. The unemployment rolls for men were reduced to 1500 in New Haven last month, but there were an additional 1100 women added to the jobless rolls.

Connecticut Lettuce Boycott Begins

Farm Workers, Press Release

ONLY BUY FARMWORKERS AFL-CIO UNION LABEL LETTUCE

The United Farm Workers National Union, AFL-CIO, today announced that they are beginning a campaign to convince Connecticut residents not to eat lettuce. The Farm Workers Union, led by Cesar Chavez, is conducting a nationwide boycott of iceberg lettuce in an attempt to win union contracts for lettuce workers in California and Arizona.

The boycott picked up immediate support from a number of Connecticut organizations, including the State Council of Churches, the Connecticut Citizens Action Group, the Hartford Branch of the NAACP, and the United Auto Workers (UAW).

At its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 7, the State UAW Community Action Program (CAP) Council declared:

Farm workers perform the essential task of feeding all Americans, yet their wages are so low that they cannot provide food, shelter and medical care for their own families...We urge all union members and other citizens concerned about justice to refrain from eating lettuce, unless it bears the Farm Workers union label--the Aztec eagle.

The UAW CAP Council also offered the use of its office equipment and supplies to aid the farm workers in printing leaflets and taking their message to the public.

"Now we need to get other unions and church groups involved," says George Sheridan, Director of the Connecticut boycott office. "Today there are only a few thousand people in the whole state who are aware that there is a boycott going on. My job is to tell three million people that there is a boycott and persuade them not to eat lettuce. I can't do it alone.

"Our whole nonviolent movement is based on ordinary people getting involved--especially housewives who spread the word in their neighborhoods and in local supermarkets."

Don't Eat Lettuce

Sheridan says the boycott cannot succeed without public support. "The key to the whole thing is an individual who decides that he or she is willing to give up lettuce so that the farm workers can win just wages."

The local boycott group is distributing leaflets with the slogan "Every time I eat lettuce I help keep farmworkers children hungry."'

"This is no exaggeration," says Mr. Sheridan. "The average pay for a man working in the fields is one thousand six hundred dollars ($1600) per year--about thirty-two dollars per week. 800,000 children under the age of sixteen must work in the fields to help support their families.

"And things are not getting better. When Chet Huntley went to Florida to film Migrant: An NBC White Paper, he found that farm workers there are actually earning less than they were ten years ago."

According to Mr. Sheridan, "The only way these things will change is with the development of a strong union."

Started as a Teacher

Mr. Sheridan came into contact with the Farmworkers as a member of the Teachers Corps, a federal program similar to VISTA. After two years, he decided to work as a full time volunteer with the farm laborers. "I was teaching Farm Workers' children, and I came to see that as a teacher, I couldn't help them escape from poverty...so instead of helping just a small percentage to escape from farm work altogether, I decided to help make farm labor a decently paid job."

Like every member of the Farm Workers' Union staff, he receives room and board and five dollars a week for personal expenses. As he notes, "the farm workers certainly cannot afford to pay anyone a salary."

Clip off this box and send it to: Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers, P.O. Box 62, Keene, California 93531

I pledge to the United Farm Workers that I will not eat or buy any lettuce until the lettuce industry recognizes the workers' rights to unionization and signs contracts with them. I will urge my friends and neighbors to do the same.

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____ **Zip**_____

Impasse with Board

Teachers Lack Contract

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

The school year is now over. As students and teachers leave for the summer, there seems to be little hope for a contract settlement between the Board of Education and the New Haven Federation of Teachers (NHFT) by Labor Day.

The NHFT had asked for a Court injunction to force the Board of Education to the bargaining table for face-to-face negotiations. The Board has asked for state mediation even though they had not discussed all the major contract issues with the Teachers union. The Court ruled in favor of the Board and is permitting mediation to continue.

The Board has supposedly come up with a new proposal through mediation which is already in progress. But the Board will have a long way to go from its original position in March to satisfy the teachers. That position called for more work (both teaching and non-teaching) and no salary increase.

Teachers dispersed for the summer with no clear idea of what the Board will offer over the summer, or what mediation will bring. The Board has successfully put off meaningful negotiations all Spring and can play on the doubts and fears of New Haven teachers.

Some Very Real Fears

Teachers' fears over job security and a new contract are very real. Several vacancies were not filled in the teaching staff because of shortages in the new school budget. Teachers have been transferred and assigned new teaching duties because of the cuts in staff. In addition, rumors have been spreading that teachers will be layed off during the summer.

Teacher layoffs have become common in many cities this year. Only strong union action has been able to save jobs in some cases. Teachers in other Connecticut cities have had poor contract settlements in comparison to the gains of past years.

Another ground for teachers' fears is the present surplus of trained teachers being turned out by colleges. Boards of Education would be more than willing to hire inexperienced teachers at starting salaries to replace experienced teachers near the top of their salary scales.

Moms And Children Ring AroundCongress

by Virginia Simon
The Incredible Journey

At 5 A.M. on Thursday, June 22, a busload of 50 people, mostly women and children, with the overflow of people following in a car, started out from the New Haven Green for a day of demonstrating and lobbying in Washington against the Vietnam War.

Individuals from various churches and the New Haven Coalition for Peace and Justice - calling themselves "Women and Children for Peace" - coordinated this action.

At one point on the trip, when it appeared that the floods would turn us back, the sheer will and insistence of the New Haven group kept us going.

Arriving in Washington about four hours late, the group split up to make planned visits to Connecticut Senators and Representatives. Robert Giaimo's office was deserted; Monagan's aides spoke with two of the visiting groups (he was on the floor at the time); a long discussion was held with one of Ribicoff's office staff (he was in Connecticut); Senator Weicker although present in his office refused to meet with the delegation. Among the other delegations, there was one Gold Star Mother whose congressman wouldn't see her at all.

The Best Laid Plans

Although our Connecticut delegation came too late to join the women's and children's "ring around the congress" planned for the occasion, they were more fortunate than groups from Philadelphia and New York City. The Philadelphia group didn't arrive because someone had told them the wrong story - that the event was cancelled; the train carrying 1000 people from New York couldn't make it through the flooded tracks, and made a ring around Penn Station instead.

Delegations from various states reported the results of their Congressional visits back to the entire group of about 3000 people on the steps of the Capitol rotunda. They came from as far away as California, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. Many of the people in the New Haven group had never before been involved in a demonstration.

In New Haven the "Women and Children for Peace" was organized by the New Haven Coalition for Peace and Justice together with individuals from various churches. This was in response to a call from Joan Baez and Coretta Scott (wife of the late Martin Luther King) to women and children to come to Washington from all over the country to demonstrate their opposition to continuing appropriations of money for carrying on the war in Indo China.

The demonstration was also called to ask Congress which represents the people to take back their powers. Placing a ring of people around Congress therefore symbolized the idea of Congress cutting off funds and also reestablishing the powers that it should have.

Joan Baez sings to the crowd of demonstrators who gathered on the steps of Congress in Washington, D. C. She was one of the people who organized this demonstration of women and children. (M-T photo by Joe Taylor).

Labor Activists Confer On Antiwar Strategy

by Pat O'Dea
Young Unionists Action League

A meeting of top labor leaders and over 916 various rank and file union members of 31 international unions was held on June 23-24 in St. Louis, Mo. The purpose of this conference, called "Labor for Peace," was to form a platform to force complete U.S. troop withdrawal out of Vietnam.

This conference, held at the Joint Teamsters Council in St. Louis, was sponsored by labor leaders like Leonard Woodcock, President of the United Auto Workers (UAW), Jerry Wurf, International President of AFSCME, Harold Gibbons, Vice-President of the Teamsters, and many more.

The conference, which I attended as a delegate from the Young Unionists Action League, AFL-CIO, opened Friday evening with a short speech by Emil Mazey, chairman of the conference and the Secretary-Treasurer of the UAW.

Main Speakers

Four speakers followed, all of whom took a vigorous stand against the war. They were Jerry Wurf, who said that "a labor party and general strike is utopia at the present time." Patrick Gorman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters, "President Nixon, while using the war in his effort to get re-elected, could conceivably destroy civilization." Frank Rosenbloom, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, "Somebody has got to save the name of the labor movement." Gibbons of the Teamsters also spoke.

The main content of these speeches was for the immediate callback of U.S. forces from Vietnam NOW, not next month or year, and the use of money for *our internal needs instead of this* "businessmen's war."

Saturday morning the conference was picketed by right wingers calling us communists and calling for the support and re-election of President Nixon.

Senator Mike Gravel and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr. took a stand against the war in speeches on Saturday and endorsed the conference.

Program for Peace

Moe Foner, Executive Secretary of the National Union of Hospital and Nursing Employees then presented the "Program for Peace." He explained that if this war was to end, that Labor would have to form a body with enough strength that Congress and the President could not ignore it. This body would let Congress and the President know the feelings of Labor on the war and **demand immediate withdrawal from**

Vietnam. A proposal was made for a one-day national work stoppage. After a long debate over this, a vote was taken and it was rejected.

What I felt was the high point, and most disappointing, was the proposed structure of Labor for Peace which was presented by David Livingston, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Distributive Workers of America.

Organizational Set-up

The following organizational steps *were proposed: 1) the establishment of a national steering committee with* representatives from each international union; 2) ratification of the committee by the conference; 3) committee work will be to designate location of a permanent headquarters, hire a staff, prepare and distribute a monthly newsletter and other educational materials on the impact of the war on working people, and set up speakers bureaus; 4) establishment of local branches; and 5) fund raising.

The most controversial part was item 4) about local branches. It said, "the steering committee shall authorise the establishment of Labor for Peace bodies in localities, regions, and organizations. Such subordinate bodies shall carry on the work of Labor for Peace in accordance with the policy statement adopted at the Conference. Membership in such bodies shall follow the pattern of National Labor for Peace and shall be open to local and regional organizations where such organizations have approved participation of delegates from local unions. The aim of local Labor for Peace shall be to inform, educate and arouse the membership to act to end the war now."

After this, an amendment was introduced to allow rank and file union members to participate in this effort on a local level. This was not even allowed; a vote which, in my opinion, made this conference like all the others, run by and for top labor people. The structure however, was endorsed by a majority vote and Labor for Peace became a new national organization.

Painters Approve New Contract

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

"We've been hurt more than we've ever been. We have people who are running out of their benefits. Right now we have about 30% out of work. That's about 10 to 20% less unemployment than the other locals in the state but it's still too much. Maybe with the roller we can become more competitive and get some of the the business back that's going to the non-union painters."

In these words Frank Perelli, Business Representative of Painters Local 186, explained the pressure behind the union membership decision to approve a new contract by a three to one vote on June 15th. At the heart of the new terms are a 17.8% hourly wage increase and the acceptance of of the use of *paint rollers and handles as well as brushes.*

The contract, negotiated with Union Employers Chapter of the Painters and Decoraters of America (the bargaining committee for area contractors) boiled down to the trade off of rollers for wages. For the past three years the issue has been a problem. In 1970 the unions' position resulted in a ten-week lockout.

Forced to Change

The union has insisted on the exclusive use of brushes to insure more and longer jobs for its members. But in the face of the present high unemployment rates, it was forced to change. As Mr. Perelli noted, "I would like to see full employment once again. With this agreement we are testing new shoes, so to speak... We have to live with it and accept it."

The $1.10 per hour raises provided for in the contract breaks down as follows: $.15 for the pension fund; $.85 in wages; and $.10 to the health and welfare fund. The raise brings the minimum hourly wage for union painters to $7.25.

The unemployment pressure has also *influenced the switch from brushes to rollers in other cities of the state. The Hartford local has had a roller agreement for the past ten years and the Bridgeport local for the past year.*

Local Labor Sentiment at Odds with Nixon Letter

Nixon Says Thanks For The Support

Dear Sir:

No conflict in this century has created such division among our people as the war in Vietnam. As the weight of national opinion often turned heavily against our commitment there, the tough decisions that were necessary to bring our involvement to an end, and to do so in a responsible way, became increasingly more difficult.

That is why I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how important your firm and unfailing support has been. You have not only bolstered the morale of our troops but, as I can assure you from my recent trips abroad, you have also helped to make the foreign politicy of the United States more credible in the eyes of other nations.

Each time that a difficult decision has been made with respect to Vietnam, including my most recent decision, many Americans have urged that we abandon our commitment, that despite the thousands of Americans who have fought and died to achieve an honorable resolution to the conflict, that America simply give up and get out. Organized labor has never done so. To the contrary, organized labor has been in the forefront of support for whatever action was required to protect our remaining troops as we withdraw from Vietnam, to secure the release of our prisoners-of-war, and to bar the North Vietnamese from taking by force what they cannot win in any other way.

On May 8, I announced what may prove to be the most difficult decision of my Presidency. Since that time, I have heard from many members of organized labor, and I am gratified that once again your response to our efforts to bring this war to an early and honorable end has been overwhelmingly supportive.

Just as there have been pressures which made my own decisions more difficult, I know that there also have been pressures which made your support of those decisions much harder. In spite of this, you have always been ready to stand up for what had to be done. As President, I am grateful because of what your support has meant to the country; as Commander-in-Chief, I am grateful because of what it has meant to our fighting men themselves.

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

★★☆Local 217 Says No Thanks☆★★

Dear Mr. President:

Our Union has received your letter of June 14, 1972, thanking those members of organized labor who support your Vietnam policy.

Although I realize your letter was a form letter, I do not appreciate being included among those in labor who support your unfortunate course of action.. Working people are patriots, and, despite any misgivings, most have felt until quite recently that the only patriotic thing to do was to support the President.

You have, however, gone too far. Your recent re-escalation of this awful war, which has ripped our country apart and killed or maimed too many of my generation, has convinced most Americans that you will never get us out. Your politicies at home attack working people instead of the big corporations who are profiting from the war and the economic mess.

I say that you have gone too far not because that is just my personal opinion (although it is). I introduced a resolution condemning your re-escalation at the April meeting of the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, the representative body of unions in this area.

This resolution passed unanimously by voice vote. The following month, despite a concerted campaign to repeal the motion by some delegates, it passed again by a better than 3-1 margin on a roll call.

That is what your misguided and disastrous politicies have done, Mr. President: you have alienated the working people of America, by demonstrating that the only truly patriotic thing to do is to oppose your policies, both foreign and domestic, in every way possible.

You, Mr. President, are a servant ot the big corporations. You are not friend of working people, and no amount of your hiding behind our brave brothers who have died in Vietnam will convince us otherwise.

Very truly yours,

John W. Wilhelm
Secretary-Treasurer

Editorial

The Right of Revolution

On July 4 we celebrate the success of a group of militant activists who were determined to make basic changes in the economic and political system of this country. Nearly 200 years ago, these activists rallied their followers by denouncing the tax system as unfair to most people. They said the government did not really serve the people as it should. They blamed the economic troubles of their times on the selfish, unfair, exploiting politicies of the government at the time.

They were angry. They tried every peaceful way to bring about the basic changes people needed. Finally, they called their followers to arms and went to war against the government.

The American revolution, the birth of the USA that we remember on July 4, symbolizes the inalienable right of people to change the system they live in -- from top to bottom -- when that system no longer serves the needs of the people.

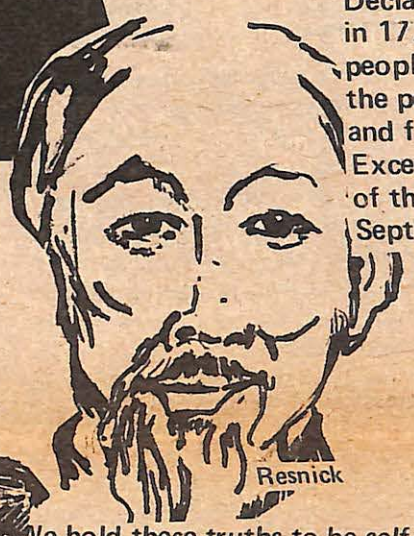
State Urges Spying

More and more people are finding themselves without jobs these days. When you lose your job, you can get unemployment compensation--which is not enough to live on. When that runs out, you can go on welfare--which is even less. To make people feel even worse about being without a job, the Connecticut unemployment offices now display a "Special Message from the Commissioner" asking claimant to spy on one another "for their protection." The message says that there is now a special telephone number at the Labor Department which you can call to report on anyone who is cheating on unemployment. You don't have to give your name--just the details about the other person's illegal job.

Legally this is a very questionable procedure. The person accused of cheating can never confront the witness against him or her. The "Commissioner's special message" is another attempt to divide people who are having a tough time against one another, to make you too nervous to speak to the next person on line for the weekly check. As one man interviewed by **Modern Times** remarked, "It's not right to ask people to snitch on each other."

JULY 4

is the 196th anniversary of the *American Revolution*



All men are created equal; they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

This immortal statement was made in the Declaration of the United States of America in 1776. In a broader sense, this means: All peoples on the earth are equal from birth, all the peoples have a right to live, to be happy and free...

Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam
September 2, 1945

What have we then to fear in the word Revolution - we, the children of rebels! We were born to be rebels - it runs in the blood.

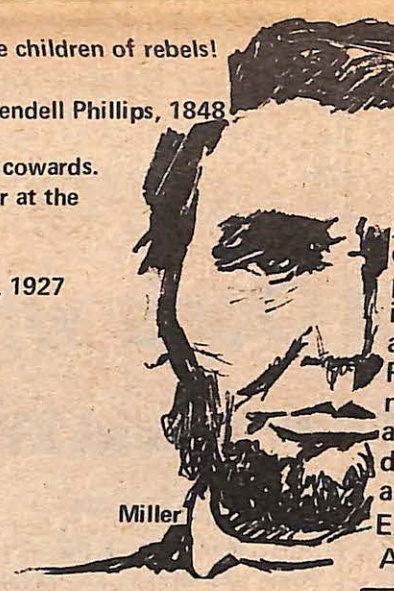
Wendell Phillips, 1848

Those who won our independence by revolution were not cowards. They did not fear political change. They did not exalt order at the cost of liberty.

Louis Brandeis
Supreme Court Justice, 1927

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.

Abraham Lincoln, 1861



We hold these truths to be self-evident - that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happoness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes...But when a long train of abuses and usurpations ...evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security...

Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America

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MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need--not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Joseph Fusco Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Ed Breuler Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff

Write On

Union Leadership

To the Editors:

I hope you will have room in your columns for a little bit of fraternal criticism about your last issue (Vol III, No. 4) which I just read.

My main complaint is this: **Modern Times** is supposed to be a paper by and for the working people of New Haven, but the impression the latest issue gives is that it's a paper by and for the union officials of New Haven. Practically everything in all the labor articles was pure hand-out from officials ("bureaucrats" and "porkchoppers" are the names workers often use). These people are not necessarily bad, but their point of view is not necessarily that of the men and women who slave in the shops and pay union dues. Where is their voice? The excellent article on Mother Jones (p.10) tells it like it is when you quote her saying:

"Many of our modern leaders of labor have wandered far from the thorny paths of the early crusaders... The rank and file have let their servants become their masters and dictators. The workers now have to fight not alone against their exploiters, but likewise their own leaders, who often betray them, sell them out, who put their own advancement ahead of that of the working masses."

Sincerely,

Richard Greeman,
Durham, Connecticut

Peace The Issue

To the Editors:

Mutual friends, Richard and Alice Mezzotero, sent me a copy of the May 15, 1972 issue of **Modern Times**. I was quite impressed with your presentation of the cause of peace, and I want to congratulate you on this splendid issue.

I too have been working for peace since World War II ended. I am a veteran of 34 years service, 1917 to 1952.

Again hearty congratulations. Peace is now the most important issue in the world.

Sincerely,

Hugh B. Hester,
Brig. General, US Army (ret.)

Money Talks

Building Trades In Trouble

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

There is a crisis in the building trades. Here is how it feels to the people most involved:

"The past year has been as bad as I've ever seen it. And I've been here for many years - all my life, in fact."

"You can put it in your newspaper. These are the worst times I've seen in my 9 years."

The people talking are members and officials of unions in the building trades - people like ironworkers, carpenters, electricians, bricklayers and others. They look serious and a little grim. Many union members have had no work for months, even in the normally busy summer season.

A sheet-metal worker looks dog tired. He's been working in a city over a 100 miles from New Haven. It's hard and he is lonely, but it is all that there is. A white-ticket man stops by the electricians' union to see if there is anything available today. "No," his union business manager shakes his head "Nothing."

Why Is It So Bad?

Jack Kenny, a business manager of Ironworkers Local 424, said at his New Haven office, "The basic reason is money. There's just no money from Washington or Hartford. So there are no jobs." He explained that most building is either done by the government or done with the help of government funds these days.

"Nixon held back the money. Meskill has money available, but he wont release it for the projects - even the ones that were OK'd by all the authorities."

Many construction workers we talked to said much the same thing. Some spoke about the $12 billion in construction projects that Nixon has held up. Others were angry about the freeze on state construction blamed on Meskill.

One older carpenter and his bricklayer friend had looked into the situation and told us what they came up with: "All those buildings in the downtown New Haven area - what they call the State-Federal Center - and that Mellon Art Gallery on Chapel Street. These projects have been 'planned' for 4-5 years.. But so far, nothing."

The bricklayer kept asking himself, while shaking his head, "How come everything just stopped dead?" Then he continued, "I can't remember if it was last year or in 1970 that both Yale-New Haven and St. Raphael's announced plans for more than $20 million worth of construction. But so far, next to nothing."

Speaking for the electricians, Domenick Panagrossi, Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 90., agreed that Nixon and Meskill were one big reason for the building trades' crisis. But he was concerned to give another reason too.

Exporting Jobs

"What about those corporations going abroad? They take away jobs." He felt that when US corporations put up factories abroad they help to cause unemployment , recession and hard times back home. "They make their money all the time, but the working people suffer."

"When the corporations put up their plants and offices over there, we have fewer construction jobs here. That's another reason for bad times in the trades here."

The last question we asked each person we interviewed was, "What is going to happen and what should be done?".

Everyone guessed that Nixon would start pumping some money into construction in August in order to try to get people to vote for him. Some thought it would work, that grateful building trades unionists would vote Nixon. But most thought that after what Nixon had already done, he couldn't get their votes so cheaply. "It'll be too little and too late," an angry crane operator insisted.

In general, the view of the laborers, carpenters, painters and others we spoke to seems to be that this severe recession is not about to disappear. They are worried. They don't see the big construction projects that mean jobs getting beyond the "planning" stage in any rush.

When President Nixon talks about the American economy "now clearly on the upswing," it comes as a bad joke to the thousands of people in Connecticut's building trades.

Open Line

Duck The Park Rowing Course !

by Joan Stone

Edgewood Park may become an Olympic Rowing Course because Lee High School needs athletic facilities. Maybe that sentence makes as little sense to you as it does to me. How did Edgewood Park, an Olympic Rowing Course, and Lee High School's athletic facilities get linked together? Was such a mixture concoted at Mory's or the clubhouse at the Yale Golf Course? Wherever this bit of political maneuvering took place, we people to go and flop down on the grass and dream.

I'll be performing a dance-in-progress called "Edgewood Park before the Olympic Rowing Course" on July 7 and 8 at 8 p.m., July 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Coogan Skating Rink at the Whalley Avenue end of the Park (indoors in case of rain). There's no charge for admission.

The Exit Experimental Theatre Company, an offshoot of the defunct Exit Coffeehouse, has secured the cooperation of the New Haven Parks Department and the New Haven Foundation and is presenting experimental productions in the Park on weekends during the summer. Here is another example of how Edgewood Park can be used by and for the people of New Haven.

Sunset glistens through swamp grass in Edgewood Park (M-T photo by Dave Dickson)

of New Haven will lose a great deal if we lose Edgewood Park.

We'll lose a place for walking, riding a bike, throwing a ball, feeding the ducks, jogging, going sled riding in the winter, escaping the heat in the summer, enjoying the trees and bushes and weeds in the different seasons.

We'll lose a place to go to when we're feeling depressed, a place to go when we're feeling happy, a place

It seems to me that superb athletic facilities could be provided for Lee High School on the land cleared for Route 34. As for the Olympic Rowing Course, DUCK IT !

Both Sides Of The City

(M-T photo by Peter Irvine).

Wow! The city is really beginning to look like a dump. Houses all boarded up. Take this one on Sylvan Ave. It's one of many within the city--unoccupied. But in the same city on the other side of town, the houses on Livingston are not boarded up. Maybe it was the way they were made? Or maybe it was who built them? Or maybe...

MT photo by Edw. Breuler

Lead Poison Endangers Children

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

There are many families in New Haven suffering from lead poisoning. By law, the City of New Haven is required to correct housing conditions which cause and perpetuate the problem. The Hill Health Center is currently active with cases where a child has been lead poisoned and no repairs have been done to the house. Consequently the children have been swallowing more lead which could result in severe brain damage and death. Sisters and brothers of the child lead poisoned have also become poisoned because repairs were not made.

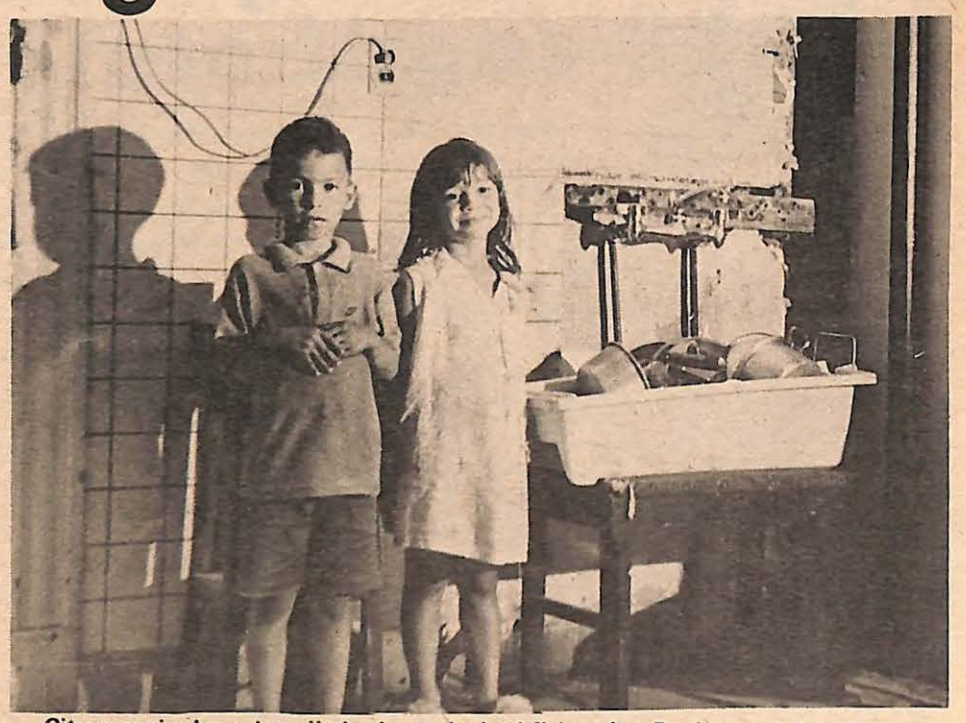
There is one case in particular which shows how poorly the problem of lead poisoning is dealt with in New Haven. Mrs. Sostre, a woman who lives with her husband and 5 children at 83 Arch St., has been trying to get something done about her living conditions since December of 1971.

On the 22nd of last December, Mrs. Sostre enrolled her family in comprehensive care at the Hill Health Center. A community health worker, who visited her home at the time, noted that the walls were in bad condition, and that there was peeling plaster and holes. There was a hole in the bathroom ceiling and water was leaking through. Mrs. Sostre said that the landlord had been notified, but nothing was done about it.

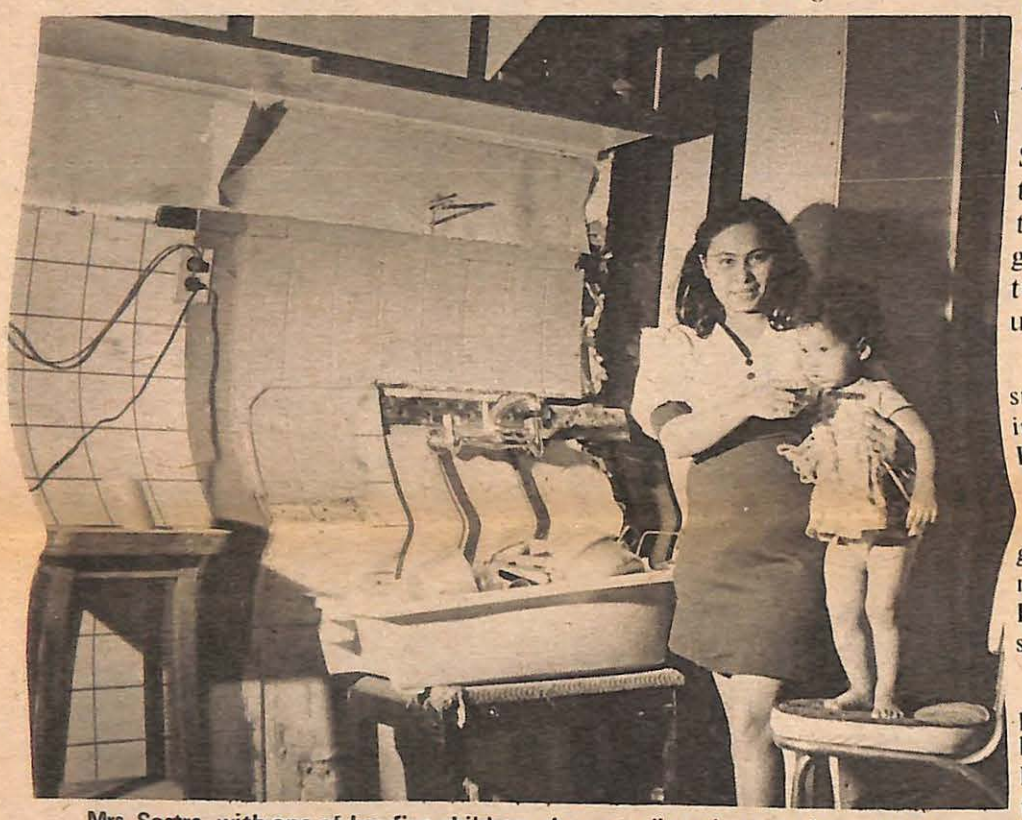
On January 11, 1972, Richard Smith, a social worker from the Hill Health Center, visited the home. Samples of paint were taken to be tested for lead. All the samples taken, from the childrens' bedrooms and the kitchen, contained lead.

At this time, Mrs. Sostre's daughter Ana was tested for lead poisoning. Her blood lead level was .055. (The median blood lead level is .027 mg. The upper normal limit should be set at .04 mg.) There were several housing code violations noted at this time also, from chipping and flaking paint, to poor drainage in the bathroom.

See LEAD Page 10



City agencies have done little about the lead flakes that Reuben and Ana Sostre are subjected to. (M-T photo by V. Comisso.)



Mrs. Sostre, with one of her five children, shows peeling plaster and paint that cause high levels of lead. (M-T photo by V. Comisso.)

Somers Situation Tense

by John Batchelor
Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions

After the "baseball" incident at Somers Prison, all the inmates spent two weeks locked up with no recreation periods, no rehabilitation programs, no work, no visitors and only two meals a day eaten in small groups under heavy guard.

What happened was that some inmates struck their guards with baseball bats during a game with the neighboring Osborne Prison.

The administration put the blame for the shutdown on the guards. However, the guards contend that swift action by the administration would have averted the closure. Either way the prisoners were the ones to suffer.

The fifteen men under suspicion were placed in solitary confinement. Charges have since been made against seven of them. However, it is hard to see any possible justification for depriving all the other inmates of their few privileges. They were unlucky bystanders.

Prison Closed

Visitors trying to enter Somers just after the incident were told that the prison was closed for a couple of days while the State Police investigated. A week later the same excuse was still being made. During this period no relatives, no press, no lawyers, no clergymen and no state senators were allowed inside. This secrecy struck the Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions (CBCI) as particularly dangerous.

Co-chairman Irm Wessel recalled the days before she escaped from Nazi Germany and said that the reason Hitler could commit such atrocities was that no one ever went in and out of the concentration camps.

The CBCI Legislative Committee has decided to seek immediate court action in the event of any future closing of the prison.

During their negotiations, the guards pressed for a complete search of the prison for weapons. A great many knives and machetes were uncovered. This reinforced the guards' suspicions that they were very unsafe when they had to mingle with the prisoners. They felt that a major confrontation had been avoided.

Some inmates on the other hand charge the guards with instigating the whole trouble. They say that the guards stirred up a fight among Black and Puerto Rican inmates the day before the "baseball" incident. Supposedly the guards in question bragged about it so much that when they tried the same trick again the inmates were angry and turned on them.

Damaging to All

This incident demonstrates how the repression within the prison is damaging not only to the inmate but also, indirectly, to the guards. The inmates have no effective, legitimate means of redress for their grievances and the Department of Corrections is afraid to grant them any. Consequently their only resort is to cause trouble. Recently a peaceful hunger strike brought a legislative investigation but no action. It is not surprising, then, if violence is in the air.

The guards know that this threatens their personal safety and demand more guards for their own protection. But this can never be a satisfactory solution for the public.

You can put a man in a dehumanizing situation like Somers Prison and keep him relatively subdued by intense supervision at the incredible cost of $10,000 a year. But one day he is going to be set free, with all the accumulated hatreds and frustrations he acquired inside, and then he will have no guards to keep him peaceful.

Dems Parley Depressing

Continued from page 2

rences. The Democratic Party, which claims to represent the working class, should recognize this and include a Workers' Bill of Rights in its platform.

Abortion Aborted

The only exciting moment in the Convention came late Saturday morning during a floor fight over an abortion plank. Abortion is a very emotional issue. It raises many questions. Do we have the right to force our moral code upon others? If religion can't instill fidelity to its teachings should it use secular law to force everyone to accept them? Since abortions will take place anyway, isn't it better for the operation to be performed under sterile, supervised conditions and not under unsanitary conditions which endanger a woman's life? Some party leaders abstained from voting rather than risk alienating any of their supporters. The final vote which defeated the plank was close. The Bridgeport delegation voted solidly against it which makes me wonder if there is any reform movement in that city.

The remainder of the convention was anti-climactic. Chairman John Bailey "forgot" to ask for nominations from the floor for the at-large delegates and a vote was rushed through for the officially sponsored list. Later on, the entire convention had to be re-convened because of the oversight and there was a long roll-call vote on the composition of the slate. It ended with approval of the names originally proposed.

In the final analysis one gets the strong impression of confusion on the state party level. Why is the state party so disorganized? These are clever men who have held power for a long time. Why did they not anticipate the abortion furor and the delegate challenges? Why did they allow themselves to be caught flat-footed

The questions can not be answered at this time. However two facts are certain. The Democrats must use anticipatory pre-crisis problem solving and some of the questions asked above must be answered if an administration which places a priority on things is to be replaced by one which places a priority on people.

Judges Grant Abortion

by Renee Poirier
Modern Times Staff

On Tuesday, June 14th, Women Vs. Conn. received a boost in their case against the state' new anti-abortion law, when a three judge panel approved a temporary restraining order allowing a 16 year old New Haven girl to obtain an abortion. As a result of this ruling, the state is prevented from prosecuting the girl and her doctor who will perform the abortion.

In making its ruling the court expressed the opinion that "there is a sufficient probability" that the second anti-abortion law will eventually be struck down.

This is hopeful news for Women vs. Conn., as their hearing for a permanent injunction against the new law comes before the same three judge panel this Friday, June 30th. By seeking the permanent injunction, the women are challenging the constitutionality of the state's new anti-abortion law.

Women vs. Conn. urges all interested women to come and be spectators at the hearing Friday, which will be held in the Federal Courthouse, 450 Main St., Hartford at 10:00 A.M.

Women driving from New Haven area, take I-91 to the Capitol Area exit, then take the 2nd ramp off the exit onto Main St., and go down one block.

New Haven Library Children's Program

by Jim Jordan
Modern Times Staff

The New Haven Free Public Library is offering a wide variety of summer programs for children. Foremost among these, according to Mr. Warren Harrington, Public Relations Director, is the summer reading program. The plan, worked out in conjunction with Dr. Nicholas Cuscuolo, supervisor of the reading program in the public schools, is designed to encourage school-age children to develop their reading ability in between school terms.

Registration for the program is now in progress at the main library and the seven branch libraries. The program, which will run until August 24, stresses that each youngster read for enjoyment and at his or her own pace. The child will keep a record of the books he reads, and at the end of the summer will receive a certificate. Mr. Harrington estimated that 1,000 children will participate in the program, more than have ever done so before.

In addition, the main branch of the library, at 133 Elm St., offers almost daily sessions for entertainment and learning. On Mondays, the library offers the Pre-School Possum Club from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The session includes both stories and a film. Tuesday at 2:30 will be "Where the Weird Things Are," where kids will hear a story (such as **Things That Go Bump in the Night** on July 11) and make a "weird thing." The Inside-Out Club, featuring explorations in communicating, will meet every Thursday morning at 10.

The main branch also offers a special program for Spanish-speaking children every Friday at 10:00 a.m. The program, called "La Fuente Hispanica," (The Spanish Fountain) will feature a different story every week.

New Haven Free Public Library

Telephone for agencies
9 A.M.-5 P.M. 562-0151
After 5 P.M., Saturdays and Holidays 787-5985

CENTRAL LIBRARY 133 Elm St.
Monday through Friday
9 A.M.-9 P.M.
Saturday 9 A.M.-6 P.M.

-Branch Libraries-

BROOK-VIEW LIBRARY CENTER
124 Wilmot Road

CHAPEL LIBRARY CENTER
1580 Chapel Street

DAVENPORT LIBRARY CENTER
261 Portsea Street

FAIR HAVEN LIBRARY
182 Grand Avenue

MITCHEL LIBRARY
37 Harrison Street

NATHAN HALE LIBRARY
480 Townsend Avenue

STETSON LIBRARY
200 Dixwell Avenue

WOOSTER SQUARE LIBRARY
Wooster Place

Drivers Brake Bus Traffic

Continued from page 1

culated the petitions were working without the support of their union, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU).

On Friday, June 16th, the union did come out against the new shedules. Don Hayden, a driver who worked hard getting public support, said that "the union felt as though it had to come out in support of these workers, because of all the static we were creating"

Contract Void

The New Haven local of the ATU consists of 214 drivers and mechanics. The union claims that its contract with the Conn. Co. was cancelled when the company failed to negotiate the schedule changes. The drivers were dissatisfied with their new schedules. Some didn't have two consecutive days off. Their rest periods were inconveniently located on the outskirts of town.

The drivers on the Green were concerned more with the service cutbacks and the layoffs. Don Hayden said, *"By our actions, we were bringing out the public's interest, not the drivers' interests."*

On Monday, June 19, the drivers went to Hartford to give the governor the petitions. *The Governor was not there to greet them. His personal Secretary, Stanley Page, took the petitions.*

It was later that the drivers learned that an injunction had been filed in the court of common pleas by area towns, which would delay the cuts.

Late Monday afternoon, the drivers were asked to get the signatures back from the governor and bring them to the court of common pleas in New Britain. This was done. There were hearings called by Conn. Co. owner E. Clayton Gengras, to appeal the injunctio on Monday and Tuesday., in the office of Common Pleas Court judge Edward C. Hammill in New Britain. These sessions were closed. No union representatives were allowed.

Mr. Gengras was ordered by the court to put the buses back on the roads with the old schedules. The buses ran again on Wednesday, but things weren't quite the same. The ten drivers, who were laid off with the adoption of the new schedule, did not get their jobs back. Don Hayden said of this, "We feel that Mr. Gengras is in violation because even though he did put the buses back, he still went through with the layoffs of the men."

The bus drivers made the following statement at their rally on June 17:

The Connecticut Company, while increasing fares, has drastically reduced its services...

Only a massive expression of public outrage can bring an end to this flaunting of the public interest by the Connecticut Company and its owner, E. Clayton Gengras.

On June 16, Conn. Co. Bus Drivers held a rally on the green to share information and to gather signatures in protest of the cutbacks. (M-T photo by William Keel).

Unemployment Office Looking For Stoolpigeons

Continued from page 1

Calvin West had this to say. "A lot of people collecting really need it. They'd work, but there are no jobs. Young people can get by, we can hustle. But people with families, if they find a way of getting extra money they'll do it." (M-T photo by Patti Miller

Valerie Abernathy, said "It stinks... it's rotten! When you get in there you're griping more about waiting in line. But still it's not right. It's the Labor Department's job to find out. That's what they're there for."

Most of the people we talked to wished to remain anonymous. But generally they disapproved of the system.

"I think it's lousy. If somebody asked me, I wouldn't tell'em. It's none of my business, if someone wants to be dishonest, that's their business."

Older man.

"I don't think you'll find anybody cheating, because there aren't enough jobs."

Young Woman.

One woman doesn't think it's possible to cheat. "I don't think you could get away with it. You have to report here at least once a month. If you work, they'll find out." She felt the question of whether or not she'd snitch was a tough one. "Gee, I don't know. Depends. If they need the money that bad ... I suppose there are some who are doing it all the time ... I don't know, I really don't know."

"It's sneaky, as usual. We didn't get a chance to talk about it in line, because we got the message as we left."

Young man.

"I suppose some people would report them. We Americans are the funniest people in the world. I don't know, who's gonna tell on somebody?"

Middle aged woman.

Joe Iamele feels this way. "I couldn't do that. You're beating the state-how could you blame somebody for for collecting illegally? It ain't illegal anyway. They're all crooks. The Mayor ... the President." (M-T photo by Patti Miller).

"I resent them implying that some people are taking money from others. Unemployment benefits are paid into a fund by our employers, and are not dependent on how mech other workers get."

Young woman.

brass tacks

Towards A Sane Society

by Mike F. Holodnak

When labor fought the good fight, it made a lot of waves. It won wage increases, fringe benefits and better working conditions, all of which raised the standard of living for nearly all workers, even those who were not organized.

In short, organized labor helped the bulk of the American working people to rise up from the sweat-shops and company-owned shanties.

Then, when managements learned new tricks and when a certain level of comfort was reached, some voices in the labor movement said, "stop making waves."

Some labor leaders became palsy walsy with the bosses, rubbed elbows with them at elaborate testimonial dinners and used phrases like "Labor-Management partnership," "Harmony," "Joint Venture," "People's Capitalism," Etc.

And sometimes, when labor and management became "partners," they combined to kick out of the labor movement those labor leaders who preached that this "partnership" would ultimately sell-out the rank and file.

With all beings and all things we shall be as relatives--
Sioux Indian. (Linoleum cut by Suzanne Simon Hodes).

Discontent on the Rise

Today, with the standard of living dropping and the cost of living rising for practically every American worker, it is becoming more and more apparent to the rank and file union members that they had indeed been sold out. Whether this was done overtly or inadvertantly is of little importance. The one thing that is evident today throughout the country is that there is definitely a sharply rising discontent in the rank and file.

But since unemployment is set at 6% and since speed-ups and automation are continually adding to the unemployment, how can the rank and file, caught in a tight job market, cope with these problems?

There are no easy answers. But one thing that is clearly a fraud is the concept that workers and management are partners.

The rising tide of the rank and file movement is beginning to recognize that fact, and is now seriously challenging the old entrenched union leaders, and it is also moving to organize the unorganized.

Unite for Change

But, even if all the workers were organized, the problem of changing society over to benefit everybody should not fall on the shoulders of the workers alone.

Ecology groups are well aware of the fact that under the present set-up big corporations are immune to anti-pollution laws. Anti-war groups are beginning to realize that you can't stop a war as long as the pentagon-based industrialists keep pressing for more raw materials and cheap foreign labor. Minority groups know that equality is impossible as long as the greedy can profit from racism and sexism. Consumer groups, who are also mostly workers, know that it is futile to fight high food prices while food surpluses are dumped into the sea and giant farm corporations are paid billions of dollars not to grow food. And the unemployed know that going on welfare or a life of crime is a one-way ticket to nowhere.

All these groups have basically the same interests. They will all benefit from a sane society. Therefore it is only logical that these groups unite with workers in order to bring about this kind of society.

That a drastic change is ineviatble cannot be disputed by any thoughtful individual. However, the thing that is most essential to achieving change is how many groups will participate in making the change. Obviously the more groups that get involved the more peaceful will be the transition, and, as for the actual change itself, the greater will be the quality of that change.

World Affairs

War Destroys Vietnamese Economy

by Tony Dominski

(author's note: much of the material in this article is taken from the newsletter Thoi-Bao Ga, *published by the Vietnamese Resource Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Perhaps the most severe (and in the long run possibly the most important) effect of the Thieu regime's complete dependence upon the United States is the disruption and destruction of the South Vietnamese economy.

Massive inflation--since 1961, prices have risen over 800%, wages only 100%--has made it difficult for the average South Vietnamese citizen to earn enough to feed himself and his family.

The economic crisis, born of the Thieu dictatorship's corruption, benefits a small elite class of rulers at the expense of the great majority of the poor. According to Ngo Vinh Long, a Vietnamese scholar at Harvard, during the 1971 "Autumn Revolution" the economic reforms introduced caused the price of food to go up 15-200%, while the price of luxury goods--TV's, cosmetics, brandy, etc.,--actually declined.

The table below indicates how impossible it is for a South Vietnamese worker to maintain a minimal nutritional standard.

MONTHLY PAY	AMERICAN EQUIVALENT
Worker	$8 per month
Soldier	$10 per month
Official	$25 per month
FOOD PRICES	
Rice	$12 a 220 lb. sack
Oranges	$9 a dozen
Mangoes	$1 each
Bananas	$1 a bunch
Pork	$0.75 a pound
Fish	$0.50 a pound
Grapefruit	$1 each

Income Not Enough

A Saigon Catholic newspaper reported that "government statistics (show) that on average the daily income of a male worker was 108 piasters and that of a female worker 95 piasters. Yet it costs at least 315 piasters per day for each person to buy enough food to meet the minimum daily requirements for his own consumption." (The regular official exchange rate is 400 piasters for one U. S. dollar.)

The basic monthly pay of an employed worker, if spent entirely on rice alone, could buy enough for two persons for a month.

Even professionals are having a tough time making ends meet. A writer for Tin Sang, the Saigon Catholic daily, described a dinner for seven, two adults and five children, at the home of the not particularly poor family of a university professor.

"On the table there were two small bowls of soup made from zucchini squash with a few pieces of lard floating in it, two dishes containing seven tiny eels and two dishes containing a few dozen fried shrimps. All in all,each person could eat two pieces of squash, one tiny eel about the size of two fingers, six tiny shrimps and three spoonfuls of soup."

Causes of Crisis

The economic crisis is caused by Thieu's corrupt mismanagement, by his lack of support, and by the withdrawal of American troops and thus the money they spend. To counteract this, Thieu is making it easier for foreign businesses to invest in South Vietnam.

The companies make astronomical profits, fill the government's treasury, and, quite literally, starve the worker. It is then no wonder that ARVN soldiers will not fight very hard to defend a dictatorship installed and upheld by the U. S., a dictatorship which squeezes the people of their country to satisfy the domestic and foreign powers.

Lead Poison

Continued from page 8

Ten days later, the Health Dept. received paint samples.

Nothing Done

In April, three months later, it was reported that nothing had been done to the house. Mrs. Sostre had put the rent in escrow with the Legal Assistance Association because no repairs had been made.

On April 18, the Health Dept. gave the landlord until the 8th of May to do the necessary repairs, or else he would be arrested. When the deadline came, very little work had been done. The toilet had been removed for repairs.

Nothing has been done for Mrs. Sostre and her family since December, 1971. In fact, the problems have increased since the agencies have become involved. Ana's blood lead is rising again, and her brother Reuben became lead poisoned in June.

On June 21, 1972, there was another home visit paid by the Hill Health Center. Plumbers were there working, and they have been for two months. The kitchen sink, the tub, and the toilet have all been removed. No repairs have been begun where lead paint was found six months ago. Paint was still chipping and peeling.

JAZZ CONCERT

July 9 8:30 p. m.

to benefit the angela davis bookstore

Coogan Pavilion Edgewood Park

with the

New Haven Free Jazz Collective featuring

Frank Bennett, drums
Tommy Brasile, tenor sax
Jeff Fuller, guitar
Phil Shopoff, bass

(free dance concert by Joan Stone at 6:30 p.m.)

$2.00

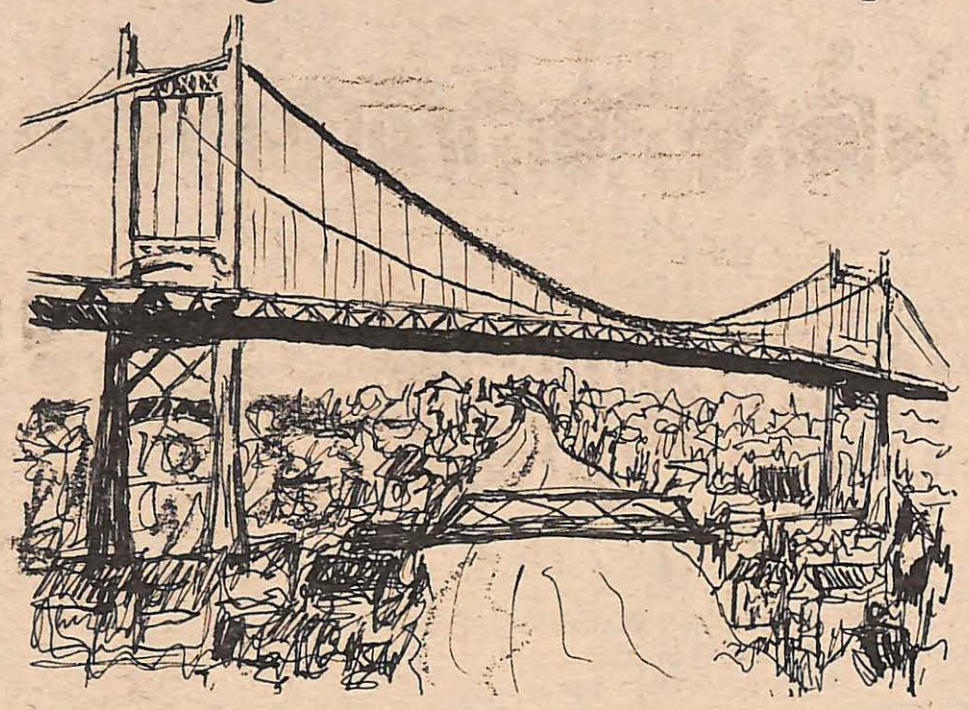
EAST SIDE ROUND UP

Troubled Bridge Over Dirty Water

by Frank R. Annunziato

Never let it be said that New Haven's Redevelopment Agency does anything in a small way. The proposed new Fair Haven bridge over the Quinnipiac, unlike the one we've got now, is going to be a stationary bridge **over 100 feet above sea level!** Ladies and gentlemen, we're not going to have an ordinary bridge on Grand Avenue. We are going to get the Golden Gate of the East.

Anybody that knows the area will tell you that the Quinnipiac River is hardly wide enough to accommodate two canoes going in different directions. This new bridge will be able to handle trans-Atlantic cruisers. Oh well, you never know what could happen.



FAIR HAVEN RENEWAL GETS FEDERAL FUNDING

This lead headline in the June 18 Sunday Register was followed by the rather pretentious line, "After almost ten years of planning, hoping, and struggling to get the Fair Haven Renewal Project off the ground..."

The headline for another article on the plan called it a "Renaissance." These articles are, to me, the biggest con job that the Register - long noted for its con jobs - has pulled off in some time.

I don't claim to be an expert on Urban Renewal, but I do know something about this Fair Haven plan. I was a member of a citizen's group - the Project Area Committee - for almost two years. I left when it became painfully clear that neither the renewal agency nor many of the so-called community people on the Project Area Committee could give a damn about the poor and working people of Fair Haven.

This Is A Renaissance?

What exactly is wrong with this "Renaissance" that we have all been planning, struggling, and hoping for the last ten years?

Let's start with the brand new bridge. First of all, this bridge is going to be paid for by state and city monies, *not by federal funds.* The Renewal Agency is keeping the cost of this bridge a big secret.

However, if you glance at the city budget, you will find that in it there are proposed allocations for the next two years of 2.5 and 3.5 million dollars under the category of "Bridge Replacement." Could this be for the new Fair Haven bridge? $6 million - and I thought that the city was in a fiscal crisis and has to raise property taxes and deny raises to municipal employees!

Of Taxes and Tolls

Secondly, in order to build the bridge, federal funds are going to be used to acquire properties. I checked into the values of this property at the Hall of Records: total assessed value is roughly $300,000. That's right, folks, $300,000 of taxable property is going to be taken off the tax rolls and replaced by a non-revenue producing bridge .

The rumor around the neighborhood is that it's going to be a toll bridge: 25 cents to get to the Heights!

The third thing that's wrong with this bridge plan is that in order to build it, many small businesses are going to die - places like Pequot Pharmacy, Wooden Spoon Restaurant, Firestone, Perrotti Vegetable Market, T&M Grocery - and many more are going to be replaced by that fantastic bridge whose entrance ramp will begin on East Pearl Street.

The second great priority of this Renewal Plan is facetiously called "housing." Does this mean building more housing or buying up fixable homes to rehabilitate them? NOT ON YOUR LIFE. What it means is buying up lots of homes and leveling them to the ground. Look at the Hill area as an example of this. It looks more like a battlefield than a neighborhood. The Agency is going to buy seventeen buildings on James Street; 6 on Monroe; 4 on Chapel; and 6 on Front, in addition to the properties being purchased for the bridge.

Mrs. Harriet Parks, a neighborhood worker for the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation, went around to most of these homes to ask the people if they had been contacted about the plan and if they had been made aware of re-location benefits. *Only 2 people had known about the plan and the Agency has not contacted anybody about relocation benefits.* According to the Register's account, the funds from Washington are coming in a few weeks. What is the Agency waiting for? All together, there are about 44 families involved, many of them on welfare. What are they going to do?

Not A Pretty Picture

I hope that all those people who have been planning, hoping, and struggling for ten years would spend a few minutes worrying about what the little people of Fair Haven are going to get out of this plan. It should take only a few minutes. Maybe some people will land a job or two, but in general everybody's going to get a big, fat goose egg.

Number Nine Reopens to Community

Sheila Fox-Gage, member of the Board of Directors, conducts educational workshops for volunteers and does fund-raising.

After undergoing more than $40,000 worth of renovations at 266 State Street (near Crown), Number 9 was again ready at the beginning of May to help young people in crisis situations, and to work towards their growth. Their numbers are 865 - 6141 (days) and 787 -2127 (anytime).

Volunteer Barry Gelfand handles problems on the phone.

Volunteer workers John Porcelli and Nina Kraut have a quiet talk.

(Photos by M-T Staff Photographer Peter Irvine.)

On The Job

Cowboys in The Sky

by a New Haven Iron Worker

I'm an iron worker. It's a pretty good living and if you're going to work you might as well do something that's demanding, that requires some effort - like playing football. If there's a decent foreman and a decent company that doesn't want too much, there's a pretty good spirit and people enjoy working hard and getting the work done. But once it's done they don't stand around and look at it.

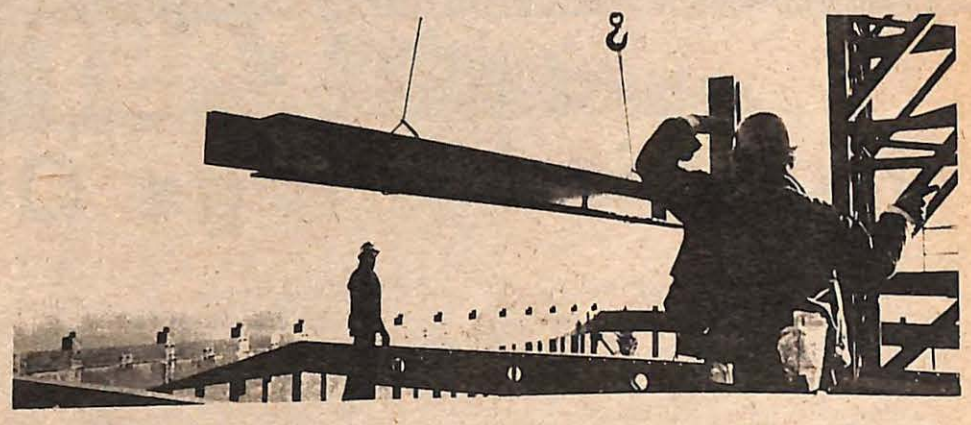
One thing that's very good about all construction is you work outside, you move around, you're not tied to one company. You work out of the union. The work is always different - each building is different.

I usually don't care too much about the buildings I'm building. We don't have any say in what's going to be built and what it's going to be used for. We have to take what work comes along. I've worked on real fancy buildings, designed by fancy architects for rich schools - and they don't seem to be serving much purpose for the people that I work with. We get paid for putting up the buildings, but we don't get much else out of them.

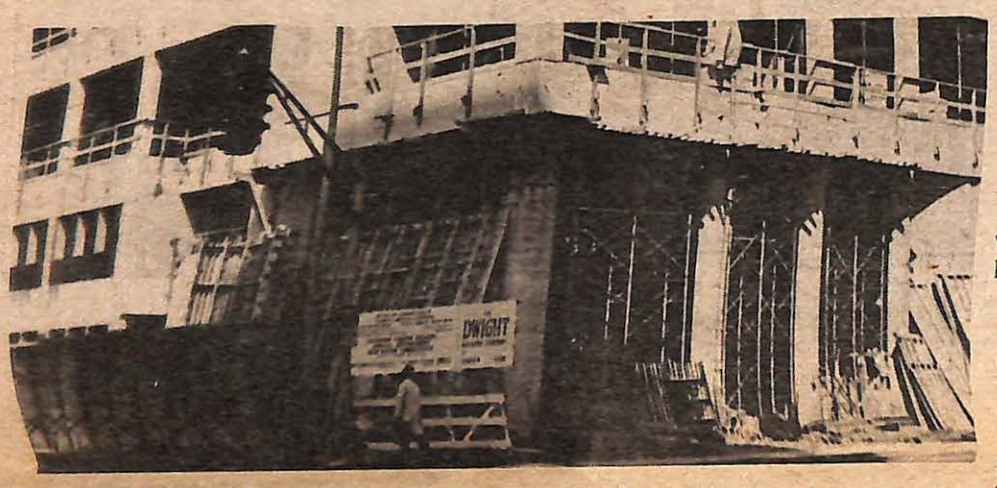
Hard Work Admired

Iron workers do mostly heavy construction. Iron workers erect structural steel - the steel framework for a building, columns, girders. We build bridges and put in reinforcing rods in all reinforced concrete buildings. Iron workers also put up the exterior walls on curtain wall buildings and put up metal stairways, handrails, all the pieces of metal that are around a large building. Anything that involves high work operating with a crane usually has iron workers.

There are two ways to learn to be an iron worker. One is to go through an apprentice program. The other way is when they need extra help they take on people who might have worked around construction or might know somebody in the union or be a relative and they're trained on the job. I think probably more iron workers were trained on the job than went through an apprentice program. I got on the job training.



Iron workers guide steel into place on a building 110 stories high.



Here is one of the few construction sites in Connecticut. The new **urt building on the corner of Wall and Church Sts.**

(M-T photo by Vittorio Comisso).

I think iron workers as a group work harder than any construction workers. Partly because most of the things we do involve heavy materials and big tools and second because there's a spirit of competition - hard work is admired, respected by iron workers.

How hard you work also depends on what kind of company you work for. A smaller local company probably has less of a profit margin, it's closer to the job and has to make people work harder than a big national company.

We have to go where the work is. Usually you work out of the local somewhere near where you live, but in Connecticut there are only two iron workers locals, in Hartford and New Haven. New Haven pretty much covers the southern half of the state. When there's not much work here, iron workers go out of state looking for a big job.

Union Control

The unions in construction have job control. They have the right to select *people, usually with the exception of the* foreman and the general foreman. The jobs go first to the senior union members of the local, then to the junior members and then apprentices. It works by seniority.

The union controls the jobs and also protects you on the job. You have appeal to the union for any kind of discrimination on the job, firing, unfair practices, work rules and so on. For example, you're not supposed to operate a crane lifting steel without a foreman and a four man crew - it wouldn't be safe to work with fewer people. The union sets the scale for your pay, sees to it that you get paid and that the company pays the benefit funds, the pension fund, that kind of thing. The union also controls the number of people in the union so that hopefully there won't be more people in the union than there are jobs.

If you look at what people get paid over the year, not their hourly rate, you'll see that most construction workers just make a living. Iron workers just make a living. Iron workers make $9.30 an hour, but they don't work, on the average, much more than 1200 hours a year. Most of the make around $10-11,000. Until 1969 the hourly rate was $6 but it's been going up a dollar a year since. People lose time between jobs, from bad weather, and in the winter when construction slows down.

Responsive to Members

I think the iron workers union is more democratic than the things that most people have at work - more democratic than the company is. If people in the union want a change, they can get a change.

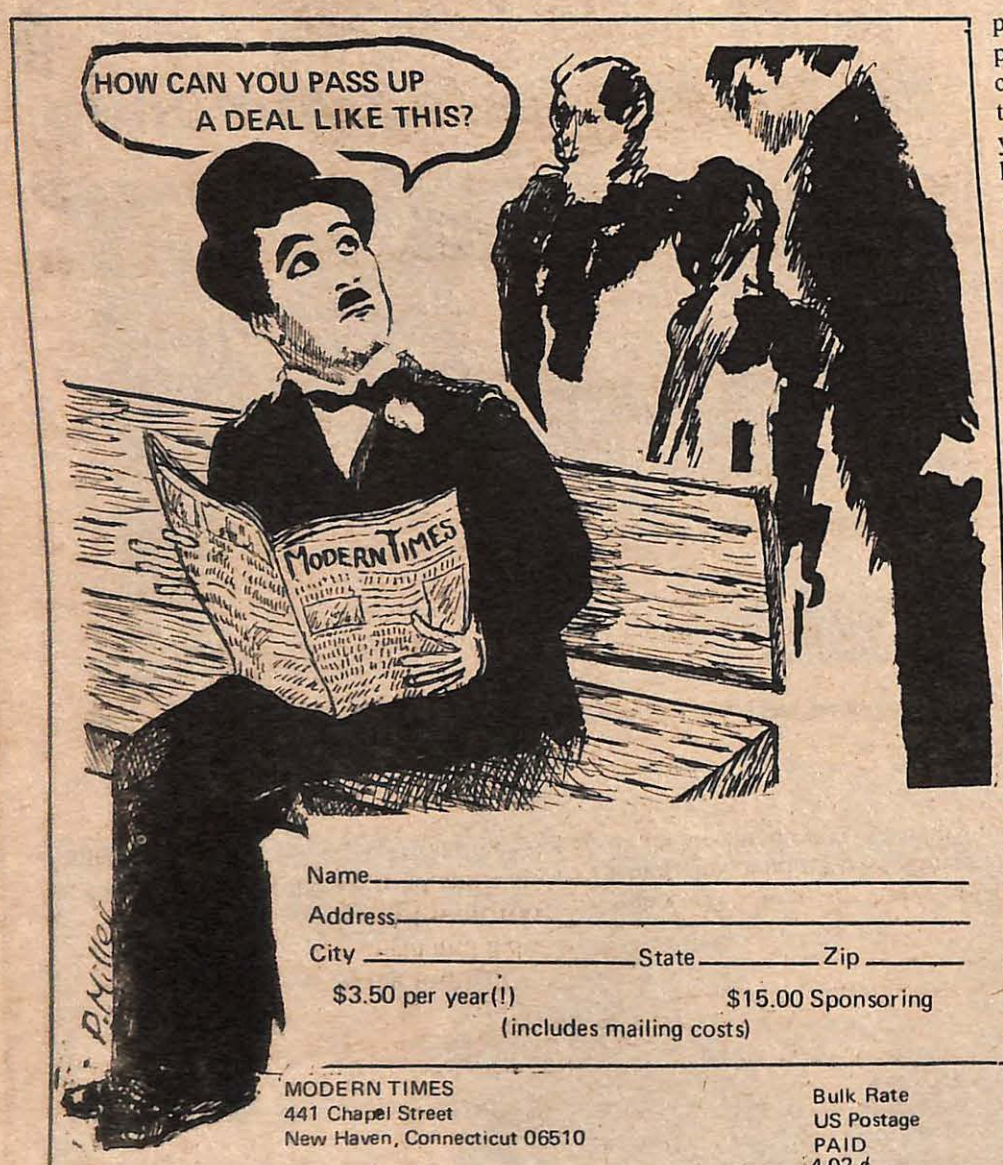
The business agents are elected from the members. They're usually people who have worked for a number of years and usually people who are very good at what they're doing. Like somebody told me once that Freddy Williams, who's the iron workers business agent here, picked up an oxygen tank on one shoulder and a gas tank on the other shoulder and walked across a steel beam from one end of a building to the other.

I think the union has probably fallen down in the last ten years in organizing. A lot of people in the union were interested mostly in protecting their own jobs. They tended more to keep people out of the union than to get more in. And now we're seeing down at Long Wharf recently there was a non-union job, which would never have happened three or four years ago. As far as minority groups, there's lots more minority group members who are construction workers than, say, bank presidents.

Everybody sees it today when work is scarce that something has to be done about *organizing and expanding the jobs the* union controls. Otherwise you're going to have all these people in the union, but they won't have any jobs.

The iron workers magazine just ran a history of the union. They said that in the early days of the iron workers in the late 1800's, they attracted a lot of people who would have been the kind of guys who were going west to the frontier, but the frontier was closing down. There were no cowboys anymore, so they became iron workers and they used to call them cowboys in the sky. I think there are still a lot of people like that around who want to go from job to job, be on the top when the building is finished. I guess that's partly the way I feel.

"Cowboys in the sky"...riding a girder



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